

SOFTZINE #8

october

2006

Didymos # Grief distance

It's been a long time since a darkwave release crossed my path and here came one and a good one, from the far (far from me) finland. It sounds a bit like a mix of Smells like rain and other more ambient creations of Mortiiis, the music goes on a steady rhythm (making it slightly dark) sometimes even mechanical (taking it the border of ominousness). If this album was a person it would be the kind that you feel comfortable with a moment then later wonder if he's not going to stab you in the back. I had a good time listening to Grief distance, as it's quite minimalistic, instrumental and nearly beatless, I surprised myself singing imaginary chorales on the most bare tracks.

Label # elodraama.com

Dimitris # Black & white

Dimitris released a series of (5 or 6) albums on Bumpfoot netlabel, they are quite varied and include technoid music to soundscapes to the loungey jazz of Black & white which I liked most. The music is nothing perfect but is good enough to deserve an ear, it's especially here to remind us of the lack of jazz releases on the netmusic scene. The album runs on a decent 36 minutes through 8 tracks of calm jazz, the rhythm rarely increases and when it does it's on a very small scale making subtle changes in the mood and atmosphere that it provides. A nice release.

Netlabel # Bumpfoot

Objekt4 # Her face among the shadows

Her face among the shadows is a collection of dark ambient works recorded by the swedish Objekt4 between 2004 and 2006 which he released through Czech label Ravenheart. The 8 tracks of this album are quite diverse and contain more or less drums but most of the time there are none. The sounds are very relaxing and usually suggest a kind of contemplative thinking, they are dark in a way that stirs up the curiosity instead of creating an aggressive or ominous state. In certain tracks, as in the first track more or less abstract beats invade the emotional output pulling it to higher peaks. Interesting soundscapes, also available in 5.1 format.

Label # ravenheart.mysteria.cz

Artist # objekt4.com

Affective disorder # St. dizier at night

Kahvi netlabel releases once again another promising artist in the genre they mostly represent, ambient music. St. dizier at night is for sure not the one who will mess with their series of quality releases as Affective disorder demonstrates his mastery in creating emotions in the victims of his music. But victims would be a hard word as the feeling that this music makes are more of a slight sadness, one that is beautiful and hope evoking. From the very beginning Le pont vers l'espace (the bridge towards space) sends you gliding in what its title already illustrates in your mind. The other tracks come with derivative feelings embellished with minimalistic beats or glitch elements depending on the track.

Netlabel # kahvi.org

DSRV # Understood

Understood is what can be called sober groovy ambient music. It's astonishingly beautiful, from the very beginning you get instantly hooked by the jazzy first track which sound changes and evolves significantly through the ep without drift away from its climate. At the 4th track the music falls into an almost plain ambient only to better return to the previous mood in the following track. DSRV gently unleashed a dreamlike atmosphere in this release as their netlabel describes it. The last time, another ambient piece, 6th and last closes this release. Unfortunately it only lasts for 21 minutes and leaves you urging for more.

Netlabel # farfromshowbiz.tk

Tlahlok # Sol.itude

Sol.itude is the name of this magnificent release and its opening track which directly drops into harsh beats covering the ambient background layer which is liberated here and there creating a pleasant contrast and giving the music an agreeable dynamic. The tendency is to diminish the harshness and to extrude the calmness from the background gradually throughout the tracks. Tlahlok put the emphasis on this formula and I can say it's a very effective one. Through taking the beats and the soundscapes back and forth the artist puts strange atmosphere changes in place. Beautiful music.

Netlabel # electro-space.com

Emiter.Arszyn # 07.11.05

This is the release of Audiotong netlabel of the performance of the two artists Emitter and Arszyn. Their set is divided into 3 tracks of respectively 17, 10 and 6 minutes. It basically consists of multiple layers of noise assembled together to create soundscapes that merges artificial looped sounds producing insect-like noises. Some random voice interventions, mostly small cuts, form an alternative mood in addition to others blips. The feel is very changing through the tracks affected by the delicate sounds getting it from natural to industrial. Soundscapes eternal.

Netlabel # audiotong.net

Artist # emiter.art.pl

Zoogoo # Live

Earsheltering puts out a mad, frantic release this time. It's a completely deranged glitch set that have produced Zoogoo. It literally jumps from one subject to another nonstop, not one silent moment, creating humorous situation sometimes when unexpected sounds splash into the composition. As it has apparently been performed live, I imagine the reactions of the people listening to it, their movements, their feedback. As I said it's quite unusual but it's musical and perfectly arranged even if it's fast paced and ever changing. To download necessarily.

Netlabel # earsheltering.free.fr

Info

Sothzine is a monthly underground music webzine and PDF mag.
<http://sothzine.atspace.com/>

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